

November 3, 2000

Mr. Stephen A. Byrne  
Vice President, Nuclear Operations  
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company  
Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station  
Post Office Box 88  
Jenkinsville, South Carolina 29065

SUBJECT: VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION - CRACK IN WELD AREA OF  
REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM (TAC NO. MB025)

Dear Mr. Byrne:

On October 24, 2000, the NRC Resident Inspector informally presented you with the following expectations and information needs listed below. The purpose of this letter is to publicly document this request for information.

1. The licensee should assess the ability of nondestructive examination at the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (Summer) to detect, characterize, and size the crack in the hot leg. The licensee should either provide sufficient information to resolve this issue prior to restart or provide a plan for resolving the issue.
2. The licensee should re-evaluate the 1993 Inservice Inspection (ISI) data in light of the assessment performed above. What is the impact of the assessment in Item 1 on the integrity of the other reactor coolant system hot legs and the cold legs?
3. The staff expects that the licensee will perform sufficient inspections and repairs to ensure all American Society of Mechanical Engineers Code rejectable defects in all hot legs and cold legs are removed prior to plant restart such that the facility is brought back in conformance with the facility Code of record.

**GENERIC INDUSTRY ISSUES - FOR APPROPRIATE INDUSTRY RESPONSE GROUP**

1. Are techniques other than ultrasonic testing (UT) appropriate for assessing the integrity of the nozzle to pipe weld? How should these techniques be qualified?
2. What qualified UT techniques (i.e., inner diameter or outer diameter inspection, transducers, beam angle, type of wave, etc.) are used by industry (each UT vendor) to perform ISI of these types of welds? Describe how these techniques are capable of assessing the type of flaw found at Summer.

S. Byrne

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If you have any questions with regard to this request, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 301-415-1438.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Karen R. Cotton, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-395

cc: See next page

If you have any questions with regard to this request, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 301-415-1438.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Karen R. Cotton, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
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Docket No. 50-395

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Mr. Stephen A. Byrne

**VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION**

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company

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